GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3589
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2001
PROXY VOTING FOR ARMED FORCES
GADDE RAMAMOHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI;P.R. KHUTE;SHIVAJI MANE

Will the Minister of LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

to the reply given to SQ No. 278 dated August 10, 2000 regarding voting through postal ballot papers by Armed forces and state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to allow proxy voting for armed forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the views given by the various political parties in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE & COMPANY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to provide an additional option to the members of the Armed Forces, etc. to vote through the system of proxy at elections. Accordingly, the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1999 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 9.12.1999. The Bill was referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs for examination and report. In its report presented to the Lok Sabha on 18.4.2001, the Committee, in view of sharp division of opinion among its members over the provisions of the Bill, while not making any recommendation either in favour or against the Bill, has suggested that Government should take up the issue with major political parties. The Government has accordingly decided to solicit the opinion of various political parties in a meeting.